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FEATURED

Key Colony Beach seeks commissioner, set to address taxes

Jill Zima Borski Special to The Citizen
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Joey Raspe recently submitted his resignation as a commissioner on the City of Key Colony Beach commission with no reason given. He said he served three years on the board and before that eight years as chair of the planning and zoning and code enforcement boards. He's been a city resident for 25 years.

As of July 8, City Clerk Silvia Roussin said she has not received any applications for the empty seat. The application is available on the city website; it asks for experience, special skills and three references.

According to peopleareasking.org, "One resident already offered his service: KCB's Utility Board chair and long-time community member Fred Swanson has informed the mayor of his ability to serve."

At its June meeting, the city focused on water treatment and drainage projects and paving the Seventh Street parking lot. The commission also approved dates for the city's 2025-2026 annual budget, which requires public hearings. A workshop is set for Tuesday, July 15, with approval of



the proposed millage or tax rate expected on July 17. Monroe County requested municipalities submit their millage rates before its July 22 meeting in order for them to be recorded prior to the county sending out annual tax assessments.

According to online data, Key Colony Beach in fiscal year 2023-2024 levied about \$3.1 million in taxes. About 16.6% of its residential properties were homesteaded, 78% of the properties were not homesteaded; 1.7% were vacant lots and 2.8% were commercial. Of the five Monroe County municipalities listed, Key Colony Beach had the most non-homesteaded lots, with Islamorada second at 61.9% and Marathon third at 57.3%. The City of Layton has 56.7% non-homesteaded lots and Key West had the fewest non-homesteaded properties at 47.9%.